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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4775
INFO RUOMGU/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 3669
RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 630
RUSBQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 9031
RUOMRA/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 345
RUOTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1690
RUEKMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1752
RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 7029
RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 3161
RUQMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 334
RUFKNA/USMISSION USNATO 19
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5463

E.O. 12065: GDS 7-18-85 (TAYLOR, JAMES E.) OR-P
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, AF, UR
SUBJECT: (LNU) REPORTS OF "UNITED FRONT" NOT SUPPORTED BY IN-
FORMATION HERE

REF: STATE 184996

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH APPEALS TO "RALLY AROUND THE PARTY"
ARE STANDARD FARE IN LEADERSHIP SPEECHES HERE, THE TERM
"UNITED FRONT" HAS NOT YET BEEN USED PUBLICLY, AND
WE BELIEVE THAT, FOR SOME REASON, MOSCOW RADIO CORRESPON-
DENT HAS CHOSEN TO EXPAND OR RECAST JULY POLITBURO ANNOUNCE-
MENT OF FORMATION, INTER ALIA, OF A "NATIONAL ORGANIZATION"
FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION. COMPOSITION AND RES-
PONSIBILITIES OF THAT BODY ARE STILL UNKNOWN, BUT EVEN IF
IT INCLUDED ORGANIZATION CITED BY MOSCOW RADIO, WE FEEL
IT WOULD FALL WELL SHORT OF A GENUINE AND CLASSIC "UNITED
FRONT." SPATE OF REPORTS COULD BE PART OF LARGER SOVIET
EFFORT TO ALTER DRA LEADERSHIP IN SOME WAY. END OF SUMMARY.

3. RADION MOSCOW REPORTS OF A RECENT AFGHAN POLITBURO DECREE PROMULGATING THE FORMATION OF SOME SORT OF "UNITED FRONT" COMPOSED OF ALL "SOCIAL, PROGRESSIVE, AND PATRIOTIC FORCES" FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION (REFTEL) ARE MISLEADING TO THE EXTENT THAT A "UNITED FRONT" IMPLIES POLITICAL PARTICIPATION BY ELEMENTS WHICH ARE NOT NECESSARILY PART AND PARCEL OF THE REGIME'S "NATURAL" CONSTITUENCY. THE GROUPS CITED IN THE RECENT FBIS ACCOUNTS OF THE MOSCOW RADION STORIES -- E.G., THE PARTY ITSELF, THE PARTY YOUTH AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS, THE JOURNALISTS' UNION -- ARE ALL THE USUAL BACK, FRONT-ORGANIZATION PROPS OF THE REGIME, AND THEIR INCLUSION IN ANY ORGANIZATION TO DEFEND THE REVOLUTION WOULD NOT SEEM TO US TO REPRESENT ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW DEPARTURE, AND WOULD CERTAINLY NOT IN THEMSELVES REPRESENT A DISTINCT "UNITED FRONT."

4. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE SPECIFIC TERM "UNITED FRONT" HAS NOT BEEN USED YET IN ANY OFFICIAL PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN CONSTANT KHALQI EXHORTATIONS FOR ALL SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY TO JOIN HANDS TO FIGHT AGAINST THE "ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE." THE MOST RECENT SUBSTANTIVE REPORT OF POLITBURO DELIVERATIONS WAS A STORY CARRIED IN THE JULY 1 GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS WHICH REVEALED THAT THE POLITBURO HAD DECIDED THE PREVIOUS DAY TO: EXPAND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AMONG THE MASSES; STRENGTHEN THE KHALQI ORGANIZATION OF AFGHAN YOUTH; ESTABLISH "ADVISORY GROUPS" WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT'S MINISTRIES; ESTABLISH A "NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION"; PREPARE APPLICATION QUESTIONNAIRES FOR PROBATIONARY PARTY MEMBERS; AND, STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE PRIMARY PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS.

5. WE HAVE NOT UNCOVERED ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE COMPOSITION OR RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NEW "NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION," BUT, SINCE THE JULY 1 ANNOUNCEMENT, THE HIGH COUNCIL FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE HOMELAND (THE BODY WHICH WE BELIEVE IS PRIMARILY CHARGED WITH DEVISING POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRATEGIES FOR COUNTERING THE INSURGENCY) HAS MET AT LEAST ONCE IN A REGULAR SESSION. THUS, THE NEW ORGANIZATION WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE MILITARY OR SECURITY TASKS, BUT WOULD MOST LIKELY SERVE AS A POLITICAL PROPAGANDA BODY WHOSE JOB WOULD BE TO DEMONSTRATE AND PUBLICIZE THE "WIDESPREAD SUPPORT" WHICH THE REGIME OSTENSIBLY COMMANDS. IN THIS CONNECTION, "COMMITTEES FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION" HAVE BEEN SET UP THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, AND IT COULD BE THAT THIS NEW ORGANIZATION WILL HAVE SIMILAR RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

6. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED (JULY 18) FBIS REPORTS WITH THE TEXTS OF THE MOSCOW RADIO REPORTS (TA 151387; LD 132124; TA 178628) WHICH APPEAR TO GO BEYOND THE JULY 1 POLITBURO ANNOUNCEMENT. IT APPEARS THAT THE SOVIET CORRESPONDENT, FOR WHATEVER REASON, MAY HAVE CHOSEN TO TRANSLATE (INCORRECTLY) "NATIONAL ORGANIZATION" INTO "UNITED NATIONAL FRONT," THEREBY USING WELL-KNOWN CODE WORDS TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE DRA HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAS EMBARKED ON A CAMPAIGN TO BROADEN ITS BASE -- A DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS DEFINITELY NOT YET THE CASE.

7. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO FIRM INFORMATION AS YET ALONG THESE LINES, THESE MOSCOW RADIO REPORTS COULD REFLECT AN ATTEMPT BY CERTAIN PARTIES TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE DRA IS BROADENING ITS POLITICAL BASE, AN IMPRESSION WHICH MIGHT HELP THWART A SOVIET EFFORT TO ALTER THE DRA LEADERSHIP COMPOSITION. SUCH AN EFFORT NOW SEEMS TO BE UNDERWAY (KABUL 5433 -Z (-77) 5439), AND IS APPARENTLY AIMED AT ACHIEVING A MORE GENUINE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PROPS UNDERPINNING THIS GOVERNMENT. IT STRIKES US THAT THESE RADIO REPORTS ARE SOMEHOW RELATED TO THE LARGER DRAMA NOW UNFOLDING, OTHERWISE MOSCOW RADIO'S ATTENTION TO MORE OR LESS STANDARD DRA APPEALS TO RALLY AROUND THE PARTY WOULD BE UNUSUAL.

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